

QUARTERLY SANITARY REPORT
Of The
U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, CORONA, CALIFORNIA
For the Period Ending 31 December 1948

H. HISTORICAL DATA:

1. CHRONOLOGY.

- 3-3-48 Captain R. E. Duncan, MC, USN, reported on board as Medical Officer in Command, as relief for Captain J. W. Vann, MC, USN.
- 6-24-48 Captain Harvey E. Robins, MC, USN was detached as Executive Officer and transferred to the U. S. Naval Hospital, Santa Margarita Ranch, Oceanside, Calif. as Medical Officer in Command.
- 9-2-48 Captain Harold V. Packard, MC, USN, reported on board for duty as Executive Officer vice Captain D. W. Lyon, MC, USN, (Acting).
- 12-6-48 Following extensive alterations to main galley UNIT I, this galley was placed back in full commission. Alterations have facilitated operation of bakeshop, special diet kitchen, main galley and scullery. During a period of three months the facilities at UNIT II served personnel of the entire hospital.
- 12-31-48 Under authority BUMED letter 4112-MFD, NH47/A1-1 dated 24 December 1947, bed capacity has remained at 650 beds. This tentative authorized bed capacity is to remain constant through fiscal year 1949.

2. ORGANIZATION.

The organization of U. S. Naval Hospital, Corona, Calif. is in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 16A5.1 and 16A5.2, Manual of the Medical Department, 1945. Under the military command of the Commandant, ELEVENTH Naval District, this hospital serves as a distinct and separate entity, there being no other naval activity in the close proximity. As the majority of the service patients under treatment here are suffering from one of the diseases for the treatment of which this hospital has been specially designated, viz.- Tuberculosis, Rheumatic Fever, Paraplegia and Poliomyelitis, they are not received from any one naval activity, but rather from the entire West Coast. Conversely, the Veterans Administration beneficiaries hospitalized here, for whom 225 beds are designated, are in most instances residents

of the nearby communities.

3. NARRATIVE ACCOUNT.

During the year 1948, reduction in personnel has made further consolidation of duties and offices necessary. The patient load (on board) has remained near the figure of 474 reported on 31 December 1947; the count being 452 on 31 December 1948. The admission and discharge rate has taxed the personnel and record offices because of constant turnover of staff personnel.

UNIT III has remained closed and in a caretaker status. The excellent refrigeration facilities in this Unit, however, are still utilized for bulk storage of meats. All buildings in this Unit are inspected regularly and kept in good maintenance repair. The Recreation Building and many of the Wards are being utilized for storage of equipment required for reactivation to a total of 2,246 beds, this being the estimated number of beds, on 8 foot centers, which the entire hospital can accommodate.

The on-board staff complement for the year 1948 was 341 (attached); this included one (1) Medical Officer and eleven (11) Nurses on temporary duty. The patient load presently shows: Tuberculosis- 143; Rheumatic Fever- 25; Paraplegia- 2; and Poliomyelitis- 86, the remainder of the census being "general" medical and surgical cases.

The program for disposal of surplus property has been completed. Seven temporary buildings used as cooks' quarters and offices, reported on in 1947, have been sold and moved during 1948.

4. ADDITIONAL DATA.

(a) Streptomycin Program:- Research Project No. X-741A (Gen) 162 Modification is still in progress. The senior investigator attended the Fifth Streptomycin Conference at Chicago, Illinois, April 15-18, 1948 and the Sixth Streptomycin Conference at St. Paul, Minnesota, October 21-24, 1948. The three studies completed to date are:- (1) The effect of 2 grams of Streptomycin given daily for a period of four months; (2) The effect of 1 gram per day for a similar period; (3) The effect of $\frac{1}{2}$ gram per day for a similar period. The study employing $\frac{1}{2}$ gram and 1 gram of Streptomycin daily for a period of 42 days is almost completed. At present we are investigating the effect of 2 grams per week, in a single injection, with treatment again for a period of four months.

(b) Tuberculosis Service.

Fifteen (15) one-story wards (35 beds), six (6) of which are presently occupied, comprise the physical setup of the Tuberculosis Service. In addition there is an Administration Building, Recreation Building (Movies, Library, Barber Shop and Ship's Service), and Galley.

As of 8 January 1949 the census was 154. All phases of collapse therapy are utilized. Minor surgery is done by the staff. Major thoracic surgery is done by a civilian consultant.

A Streptomycin Research Project has been functioning as an integral part of the Tuberculosis Service for the past 18 months.

Approximately 500 treatments have been administered to outpatients during the past year.

The present staff consists of four Medical Officers:-

- 1 Captain, MC, USN
- 1 Commander, MC, USN
- 1 LCDR, MCRW, USNR
- 1 LTJG, MCR, USNR

Two of the present staff are qualified for treatment of tuberculosis and diseases of the chest.

(c) Clinics.

Pathological and clinical staff meetings are held weekly. Cases of unusual interest are presented at these conferences, together with autopsy findings and pathological specimens. All staff medical officers are encouraged to enter into these discussions; many interesting papers are prepared and presented on Internal Medicine.

Hospital administration and the value of up to date case histories are frequently discussed by the Executive Officer. There were 83 deaths at this hospital, and post mortem examinations were performed on 53 cases.

(d) Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:-

(December 1947-1948). The department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the U. S. Naval Hospital, Corona, was relatively quiescent, with an average of 2500 treatments given monthly in the department, until August 1948.

In August the patient load of the hospital was considerably augmented by the rapid influx of civilian, Veterans Administration and service poliomyelitis patients; the peak load of 7423 patient treatments was attained in November 1948.

The department, at present, is under the direction of a medical officer qualified in physical medicine. His staff consists of five hospital corpsmen with special training in physical therapy technique, five civil service employed physical therapists and four Navy Nurse Corps officer physical therapists. The physician-in-charge reported to this activity for

duty in October 1948; as well as two of the civil service employed physical therapists and one Navy Nurse Corps officer physical therapist. The services of one Wave Corps officer physical therapist were lost in October 1948 through resignation from the service. Two of the civil service employed physical therapists and one of the Navy Nurse Corps officer physical therapists reported for duty in January 1949.

A great proportion of the patient treatments has been confined to the treatment of poliomyelitis, with a census of 65 to 115 patients during that period; pre and post-operative tuberculosis patients and general medical and surgical problems amenable to physical treatment.

(e) Occupational Therapy Department:-

Under the direction of the Chief of Medicine, this department is supervised by an officer of the Navy Nurse Corps who is specially trained in this work; two members of the Hospital Corps assist, one in the shop at UNIT II and one in UNIT I; these men are necessary to assist patients and to care for tools and power machines. The Arts and Skills Workers of the American Red Cross from Ontario, California, come in weekly and lend valuable assistance to patients. This department is particularly beneficial to tubercular and other bed patients who are furnished materials and instructions at bedside; this work as a morale factor cannot be over emphasized.

5. CONCLUSION:-

Every effort has been made during the year to consolidate facilities with a view to economical operation. Mounting costs of provisions still present a definite problem to the Commissary Department. The large number of special diets current in a hospital specializing in the treatment of Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis and Rheumatic Fever patients, all of whom receive special nourishment daily, has resulted in a ration cost which is out of proportion to that expected in the average Naval hospital. For the year ended, the local ration cost has averaged approximately \$1.18 per day.

There is still a shortage of trained hospital corpsmen, especially in the lower ratings. It is believed that men received from Hospital Corps schools would benefit by an extended course in Hospital Corps schools. It takes some time in Naval hospitals under the system of one hour of classwork daily to bring these men up to requirements in basic training, especially nursing and general ward routine.

The staff at this hospital has done excellent work and few complaints are heard from the men. Special watches are frequent and such a watch list must be available daily. Special watches on respirators especially, require vigilant watches and there are some hardships on Corpsmen in special departments who operate with a minimum of personnel.

Every effort is made to have varied recreational facilities made available to enlisted personnel. Competitive sports are encouraged and Welfare and Recreation receives the personal attention of the Commanding and Executive Officers.

Seasonal tickets to shows and athletic events off the compound are made available to the men and transportation to and from such events is made available under the supervision of the Welfare and Recreation Officer.

All phases of hospital administration for the year 1948 are considered in keeping with the high standard of Naval requirements.